New Orleans Dec 25th 1845

My Dear Mother

We are at length settled comfortably in our new dwelling place in this City. It took some little time to collect our things together & commence housekeeping in the style & manner appropriate to this location. But we are now going on very smoothly. We have two servants which we pay - one 12 & the other 4 dolls per month - pay 30 dolls per month for our house - our other current expenses are about a dollar per day so that it will cost us about 1000 dolls per year to live in this city & keep house. But we think it better than to board. We have one young Lady - a communicant in our Church boarding with us - who pays us 25 dolls per month exclusive of washing. Our Salary for the ensuing year is certain for 800 dolls - we have already received about 100 dolls in presents so that we have as yet drawn but 15 dolls of our Salary. The Lord will provide - & provide abundantly for me & mine. I have not the least doubt - to our hope are we

My Church Edifice is a most beau-

tiful Structure – of Gothic Architecture – cost-
ing as a whole about 12000 dolls. And
what is better the prospect is fair that
the whole will be paid for in a few
weeks & we shall be out of debt.

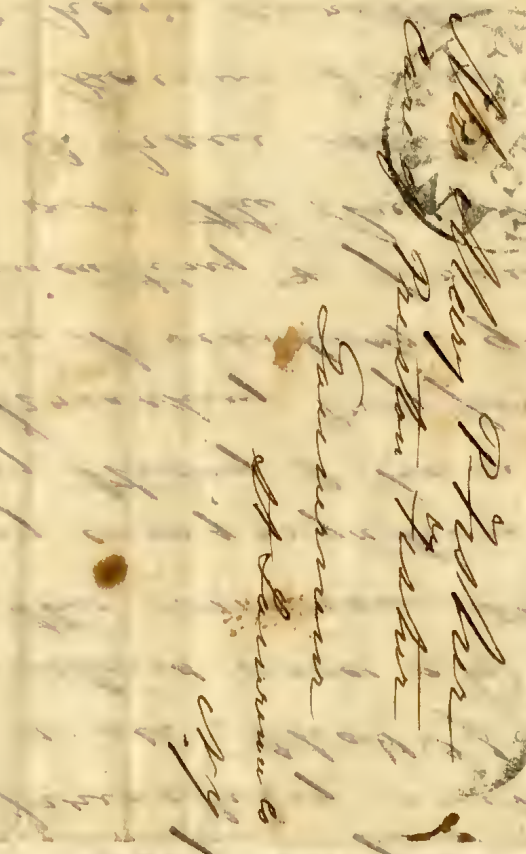
The Lord is doing great things for
us Mother – of which we are glad.
He is stirring up the heart of his peo-
ple in this City to devote themselves – sub-
stance & means to his service. We have
recently formed a City Mission Society
with a view of increasing the num-
ber of congregations & Churches in New
Orleans. The movement finds favor with
all among us who belong to our com-
munion. The prospect is that we shall
without doubt raise $300 if not $500 this
year for this purpose. We are therefore
going to set about collecting another
congregation & building another Church
immediately. The Lord is among us. He
is leaning the hearts of us all to come
up to the work in one harmonious con-
centrated band. We feel determined to car-
ry out the principle "Be not weary in
well doing" – having confidence in the
promise "For in due time we shall
reap if we faint not. We feel indeed that
we have but one life to live here & that

is a short one- We pray that we may be "stedfast immoveable always abounding in the work of the Lord forasmuch as we know our labor is not in vain in the Lord". I have never been so happy in the Ministry as here. Here is a field commensurate with my largest wishes. I have commenced preaching without notes & succeed so well that I feel greatly encouraged & intend one or two Sunday to preach in this manner. The effect produced on my congregation last Sunday exceeded any thing I have before witnessed under my preaching. Pray for us that we may grow in knowledge grace & in power of communicating & praying home the word of God on the heart & conscience of Sinners. I have not heard as yet from Brother Bacon. I received Preston's Letter & I believe I have written to him since but I am not sure. If I have not written soon & then I shall know. Charlotte is tolerably well & well pleased with N. Orleans. Lucy is very well. It has been cold here for this climate- but is now mild again- Give love to all. Write soon

Charlotte & Lucy beg to be remembered affectionately

Your Son N. L. Preston

My warmest love to dear Brother & Sister & all the little ones - we hope to see them next summer - your affectionate Daughter Mary —



Dear Mother, we took the liberty to open this letter, read it and add a few lines to tell you we are all well, Miss little Anna grows finely - weighs 16 lbs. - laughs & plays - that Mary thinks she must return very early in the Spring perhaps in March - and to enquire if you could not come home by sleighing — we do so long to see you - Will it not on the whole be quite as easy for you - perhaps some one may be coming this ways; if not could you not come by the stage? — —